

Sustainable Monocacy Commission meeting

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Members present: Bill Allen, Charles Eirkson, Gary Magnuson, Lonnie Ropp, Kim Stewart, Glen Dunham, Peter Sicilia

Members absent: Councilmember Jerry Donald, Alderman Roger Wilson, Andy Celmer, Matt Moran

County Staff: Tim Goodfellow

Guest Speakers: Jeremy Joiner and Linda Williamson, Staff in the Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER)

The meeting began in a parking area near the County's Ballenger-McKinney Waste Water Treatment Plant with introductions by Jeremy Joiner and Linda Williamson from OSER. Members of the SMC introduced themselves.

The group walked to the 27-acre reforestation site adjacent to the Monocacy River that was planted through the County's Creek Releaf Program. One cell was planted in 2017 and another in 2018, with 350 trees per acre. The sites are mowed 3x/year, with herbicide treatments done 2x/year, plus other site/tree maintenance. The program requires an 80% survival rate. The site sites have persistent populations of Johnson grass and thistle.

Chair Allen opened the business portion of the meeting after the tour. Peter Sicilia motioned to approve the July 2021 meeting minutes; Gary Magnuson seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Lonnie Ropp discussed the draft Rules of Procedures and motioned to change Section 3.2 (Regular Meetings) by adding "or Vice-Chair" in the clause concerning meeting postponement, and to change Section 3.7 (Order of Business) to change the time-frame for additions to the agenda from 'less than one week' to 'within 72 hours.' Charles Eirkson seconded the motion. Vote: 6 in favor; 1 opposed (Glenn Dunham).

Bill Allen mentioned the Farm Bureau's farm tour on September 10, 2021, as a good opportunity to see excellent agriculture management practices. RSVP deadline for the event is September 3, 2021.

Tim was asked to review the County Executive's solicitation letter (sent to all boards/commissions) for ideas and recommendations for the County to submit to the Maryland delegation in Annapolis. Since the due-date for ideas is September 15, 2021, the SMC decided to research and submit recommendations in 2022. Tim will send the State's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, plus the Maryland Attorney General's opinion on the creation and adoption of two (2) different Monocacy River Management Plans (Carroll County and Frederick County) to the

SMC members. This led to discussions on the sources of water pollution and the Monocacy River water quality analysis conducted by Hood College, which analyzed a 30+ year data set of water quality parameters from 4 points in the River. A Phase II Study, to continue Hood's analysis, was proposed to Frederick County, but not funded. Gary Magnuson mentioned that the SMC could perhaps consider lobbying the County (and City of Frederick) to fund this future work to obtain a clearer and more definitive answer to the question of the sources and locations of the River's pollution (nutrients/sediment) so strategies can be developed to improve the River's water quality.

Group discussion centered on opportunities for school-age children to become involved with the SMC's meetings and activities. Additional outreach and exposure for the SMC is needed. Tim stated that the SMC and its future activities could be highlighted or showcased on the County's Twitter account, Facebook page, and Instagram account, in addition to the SMC webpage.

Lonnie offered to reach-out to her contacts to secure a spot at the Great Frederick Fair for the September 23, 2021 SMC meeting.

As darkness descended, Peter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Charles seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by Tim Goodfellow